SECOND REPORT

From the Select Committee on the Roads from HOLYHEAD to LONDON, &c.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed, 6 June* 1817.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the State of the Roads from *Holyhead* to *London*, into the Regulations for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mail between *London* and *Dublin*, and from thence to the interior of *Ireland*; and also, into the Laws and Regulations relating to the conveyance of Passengers, Goods and Merchandize, between *Dublin* and *Holyhead*; and who were empowered to report their Observations, together with the MINUTES of the EVIDENCE taken before them, from time to time to The House:——HAVE, pursuant to the Order of The House, further examined the Matters to them referred, and have agreed upon the following REPORT:

YOUR Committee find, upon inquiring into the manner in which Goods and Merchandize, arriving at *Holyhead* by the public carriages, are conveyed across the Channel to *Dublin*, that no steps have been taken to carry into effect the measures recommended by the Committee of 1815, for removing the restrictions upon their being carried by the Post Office Packets.

This Committee states, That they find that all Packets are prohibited by the English Act of 13-14 Car. II. c. 11, sec. 22, from taking freight or merchandize, except with the concurrence of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs; and that a similar regulation is in force in Ireland, under the Irish Act of 41 Geo. III. c. 87, sec. 6.

That the consequence of these restrictions is, That it is as difficult to convey a parcel from London to Dublin, as from London to any foreign port. There is no coach or waggon office in London or in Dublin, at which a parcel can be delivered to be forwarded, under any responsibility for its safe arrival at its place of destination.

The Proprietors of the Holyhead coaches will undertake to deliver a parcel directed for Dublin, at their office at Holyhead; and if a person wishes to send a parcel from Dublin to London, he must in the first place send it to the coach office at Holyhead, by the help of some friend crossing the Channel, unless he sends it by a trading vessel, which sails once a fortnight from Dublin for Holyhead; this vessel returns from Holyhead every second Tuesday, and is the only conveyance for parcels or goods between Holyhead and Dublin.

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The following is the Evidence of Mr. John Willan, on this subject, as contained in the Appendix of their Report of 1815.

"Are you Proprietor of any Coaches on the Road from London to Holy-
"head?—Yes, of two; a Mail Coach, and a Coach called The Prince Regent.

"Are there any other Coaches between Shrewsbury and Holyhead?—There
"are not.

"How are the Parcels, carried by these Coaches to Holyhead, conveyed
"across the Channel?—The Passengers' luggage goes by the Post Office
"Packets, but no other; the rest go but once a fortnight, by a Vessel called
"The Henrietta.

"What is the reason of this arrangement?—I am informed it is a restriction
"by Act of Parliament.

"Do you receive Parcels at your Office in London, under an engagement to
"deliver them in Dublin?—If Passengers' luggage, to the Post Office Packet;
"if other luggage, to The Henrietta.

"Have you any Office in Dublin to receive Parcels to be forwarded to
"London?—Not under our direction.

"Do not you consider that this restriction you have mentioned upon the
"Packets carrying Parcels, very much interrupts the convenience of the Public?—
"Very much so.

"Would it be worth your while to set up more Coaches, or other means of
"conveyance, if this restriction were removed?—I think it would.

"Is there any Waggon at present that runs directly from London to Holyhead
"through Shrewsbury?—None directly; there is, I am told, a waggon with three
"horses that goes between Chester and Holyhead once a week.

"Did you ever attempt to establish a waggon from London to Holyhead?—
"Yes.

"What steps did you take towards it?—A waggon was prepared.

"Why did not that arrangement go forward?—It was owing to the restrictions;
"it was intended to have had several, and to have gone in a shorter time to
"make a delivery in Dublin every other day.

"If the restriction upon the conveyance of parcels across the Channel were
"removed, would you open an office in Dublin to receive Parcels, to be con-
"veyed by your carriages to London?—Yes."

Your Committee have taken under their consideration a Petition of several of the principal Bankers, Merchants, and Inhabitants of Dublin, presented last Session to the House, representing to the House, that the permitting of the Packets to carry Parcels and Goods across the Channel, would very materially contribute to promote the public interest and convenience.

With a view to meet the wishes of the Petitioners, and to carry into effect this great improvement in the general Communication between *England* and *Ireland*, it appears to Your Committee, that an Address should be presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, praying His Royal Highness to give such directions as may be necessary for enabling the Proprietors of public Carriages to convey Parcels and Packages in the Post Office Packets between Dublin and Holyhead respectively.

6 *June* 1817.

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